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NRO REVIEW COMPLETED

8 May 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Research)

SUBJECT : TAGBOARD

REFERENCE : Memo for Dr. Scoville from D/NRO, Dated 26 April 1963; No Subject

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1. Although we are armed with a 17 October 1962 commission by the D/NRO for management responsibility of the AQ-12 development, we are not unmindful of Colonel Geary's desires, as late as 30 April, that he be designated as Project Officer for TAGBOARD. This desire, coupled with Dr. McMillan's own words that "the Air Force has completed a review of additional facilities expansion required to produce the R-12 and AQ-12 project," would suggest that the Air Force has felt obliged to concern itself with the drone program and may not necessarily accept the 17 October designation by the "previous administration" as presently valid and binding. It is also interesting to note that Dr. McMillan's memorandum was not one of proposal, seeking Program B's concurrence, but rather a foregone conclusion expressing a fait accompli.

2. In response to Dr. McMillan, we should caution against any intermingling of the programs and insist that, if the same facility is used, the AQ-12 program be physically separated by means of a partition or wall from the R-12 and that access to the TAGBOARD area be controlled by a clearance separate and distinct from OXCART, KEDLOCK, EARNING, etc.

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The main emphasis of any response, however, should stimulate a reaffirmation from the D/NRO that the management of TAGBOARD rests with Program B. It is obvious that this issue will be joined at some time, and the present is not inopportune. I remain unable to envision TAGBOARD retaining a covert nature while managed, program-wise, by the Air Force.

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